

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 233
By Person, Curtis

A RESOLUTION to congratulate William H. "Bill" Watkins, Jr., on his selection as 2003 Alumnus of the Year of the Fogelman College of Business and Economics at the University of Memphis.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as civic and business leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such distinguished individual is Bill Watkins, who, on April 14, 2003, will be recognized as the Alumnus of the Year of the Fogelman College of Business and Economics at the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, a native of Braggadocio, Missouri, Bill Watkins is the oldest of five sons born to loving mother Viola Watkins, who now resides in Memphis, and to the late William H. Watkins, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, demonstrating his extraordinary valor and his dedication to the freedom of humanity, Mr. Watkins served his country in the United States Marine Corps before matriculating at the University of Memphis College of Business; and

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WHEREAS, graduating with honors from the University of Memphis in 1967, Bill Watkins began his brilliant business career in public accounting and then became a Controller of the sixth largest industrial security firm in the country, in which position he was responsible for the development of financial statements and the filing of state income taxes; he also served as a Divisional Controller for a subsidiary company; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, Bill Watkins co-founded the accounting firm of Watkins and Watkins, now known as Watkins Uiberall, PLLC; he is now the firm's managing partner, leading a cohesive team of 58 professionals in providing traditional accounting services, cost segregation studies, health care, family business, and physician consulting services; and

WHEREAS, an active and integral member of the Memphis business community, Mr. Watkins is a Certified Public Accountant and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants, serving on the state political subcommittee of the latter organization; and

WHEREAS, Bill Watkins is also a valuable member of the Tennessee Board of Regents, ably furthering the goals of this important body; administering the seventh largest system of higher education in the nation, the Tennessee Board of Regents oversees six state universities, 14 community colleges and technical institutes, and 26 technology centers with 182,000 total students; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with Watkins Uiberall, PLLC and the Tennessee Board of Regents, Mr. Watkins still has found time to lend his remarkable talents to numerous notable causes; he is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Collegiate Pacific, Inc., the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of BKR International and a member of the Economic Club of Memphis; he has previously served on the Board of Directors of the University of Memphis Foundation, as Chairman of the Board for Christ United Methodist Church, on the Board of Directors for the Boys Scouts of America, on the Investment Committee of the Shelby

County Retirement Board, and as the President of the Memphis State University National Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS, from 1977 to 1978, Bill Watkins also served as Chairman of the Shelby County Republican Party, adeptly providing leadership to his party in furtherance of his moral and political convictions; and

WHEREAS, his multitudinous and varied professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Watkins is blessed to share both love and companionship with his wife of 38 years, Jeanette Watkins, and their two children, Trey Watkins and Renee Flores; and

WHEREAS, also a Certified Public Accountant, Trey Watkins lives in Memphis with his wife and serves as a Supervisor with Watkins Uiberall, PLLC; and

WHEREAS, Renee Flores and her husband reside in New York, where she is a Pricing Analyst with Federal Express; and

WHEREAS, Bill Watkins personifies the spirit of integrity and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should salute Bill Watkins for his dedication to his profession, his community, and his university; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate William H. "Bill" Watkins, Jr. upon his receipt of the 2003 Alumnus of the Year Award from the Fogelman College of Business and Economics at the University of Memphis, extending to him our best wishes for much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.